(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Restructuring of ITI Limited

283. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Proposal to restructure the ailing Public Sector Telecom giant ITI Ltd :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some companies have submitted their offers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Mainly on account of competitive environment and fall in prices of telecom equipment, ITI suffered losses during 1994-95 and 1995-96. Therefore, with a view to conduct an indepth study of the organisation and adopt changes to turn around the company is considering a proposal to engage a suitable consultancy firm. The restructuring and strategies are being considered with reference to business of the Company, its organisation and financial aspects.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The following Companies have submitted offers :-

1. M/s Arthur D. Little, Bombay
2. M/s Richer Consultancy Services, Delhi;
3. M/s Coopers & Lybrand, Bombay
4. M/s COSMODE, Hyderabad
5. M/s SFCG, Division of KPMG Peat Marwick, Bombay
6. M/s Price Waterhouse, New Delhi
7. M/s ICICI, Bombay

The Government is considering the proposal of ITI for appointing a consultancy firm.

Eligibility of Bonus

284. SHRI AJAY CHAKARABORTY :
SHRI A.C. JOSE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers in the industries to which the payment of Bonus Act is applicable have been demanding to amend the present Act so as to abolish the eligibility ceiling for payment of Bonus;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to amend the Bonus Act in this regard and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Central Government have been receiving representations from trade unions for abolition/revision of eligibility limit in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965

(b) and (c) The Act was last Amended only in 1995 raising the eligibility limit from Rs.2500/- per month to Rs.3500/- per month and Calculation ceiling from Rs. 1600/- per month to Rs.2500/- per month. There is no proposal for further amending the Act at present

[Translation]

Training Centre of Indian Institute of Mass Communications

285. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of Indian Institute of Mass Communications training centre at district Jhabhua in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Land for IIMC branch at Jhabua has been acquired by the institute. It is proposed to include the construction of buildings in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Air Space Facility to India

286. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of signing bilateral agreement some countries are not allowing India to use their air space;

(b) if so, the names of those countries;

(c) whether the Government have raised the issue with those countries; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Some of the Arab Countries like

Oman, U.A.E., Bahrain and Saudi Arabian are presently not permitting flights over their airspace for operation of air services into and out of Isreal. For Air India's operations to Isreal, a shorter route is available over Saudi Arabia. Although the question of overflight permission was taken up with the Saudi Arabian Government, this has not been granted so far.

[English]

Regularisation of Samta Express

287. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations/requests for regularisation of Samta Express from thrice weekly, provision of 3rd AC coach and pantry car;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on such representations/requests; and

(d) the time by which the train is likely to be regularise and other provisions will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) and (d). Pantry car on 8543/8544 Samta Express is being provided shortly. Deployment of AC 3-tier coach on this train is technically not feasible as the train is running with Vacuum Brake rakes whereas AC 3-tier coaches are having Air Brake System. One AC 2nd sleeper coach has, however, been provided on this train from 2.10.96. Daily running of the train is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Peripheral Works to Private Sector

288. SHRI CHITTA BASU
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways have since been given certain "Peripheral Works" to the private sector; and

(b) if so, details of the peripheral works handed over to the private sector till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Only off-line activities like new catering services, marketing and management of tourist trains and operation of cloak rooms etc. have been opened for private sector participation.

[Translation]

Circuit to the Detective Agencies

289. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the terms and conditions of the tender of cellular, there has been a provision to provide circuit to the Detective Agencies of the country on main Switching Centre in each city or circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the cellular companies have given their consent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the names of the companies which have not given their consent; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Cellular Service being provided by the Companies who have been granted licences for the same, is governed by the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. As per the provision in section 5 (2) of the Act, the licensee is required to provide necessary facilities to the designated authorities of Central/State Governments for interception of messages passing through his network.

Section 5 (2) of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 reads as under :

> "On the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety, the Central Govt., or a State Govt. or any officer specially authorised in their behalf by the Central Govt or a State Govt. may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offense for reasons to be recorded by the order, direct that any message or class of massages to or from any person or class of persons or relating to any particular subject brought for transmission by or transmitted or received by any telegraph, shall not be transmitted or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government making the order an officer thereof mentioned on the order : provided that press messages intended to be published in India of correspondents accredited to the Central Government or a State Government shall not be intercepted or detained, unless their transmission has been prohibited under this subsection."

(c) to (f). All the licensees of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service are governed by the provisions mentioned at (a) and (b) above.